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Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00944 121158 Z

11
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 HEW-08 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /093 W
---------- 050545
P R 121130 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9369
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 944

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TBIO - CE
SUBJ: US HEART SPECIALIST TREATS SENANAYAKE

REF: COLOMBO 906 (NOTAL)

1. AMERICAN CARDIOLOGIST DR MENARD GERTLER ADVISED EMBOFF EVENING APRIL 11 THAT CONDITION OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER DUDLEY SENANAYAKE WAS IMPROVED BUT STILL MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN , AND THAT MOST CRITICAL PERIOD HAD BEEN FIRST 24 HOURS AFTER SENANAYAKE HAD GONE INTO SHOCK IN EARLY MORNING APRIL 10. AT NOON APRIL 12 ATTENDING PHYSICIAN ATTYGALLE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT SENANAYAKES CONDITION HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE LAST EXAMINATION BY GERTLER EVENING APRIL 11.

2. DURING VISIT TO SRI LANKS, GERTLER EXAMINED SENANAYAKE SIX TIMES AND ALSO GAVE BRIEF HEART CHECKUP TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. ACCORDING TO GERTLER, PM BANDARANAIKE HAS NO MAJOR CURRENT MEDICAL PROBLEMS. (GERTLER REPORTEDLY HAD EXAMINED PM DURING HER VISIT TO US IN 1971 AT REQUEST OF SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR TO UN SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE, A CLOSE FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR OF GERTLER.)

3. COMMENT: VISIT OF GERTLER, DURING WHICH HE MET PEOPLE INVOLMFD IN HEW/ SRS PROJECTS AND ADDRESSNF LOCAL HEART ASSOCIATION, WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED IN ALL ASPECTS. GERTLER HAS LOW- KEY BUT CONFIDENT MANNER THAT, IN ADDITION
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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TO HIS HIGH REPUTATION, MADE HIM WELCOME IN HIGHEST MEDICAL CIRIMES HERE AND UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO PMS ACCEPTANCE OF HIM AS WELL AS WILLINGNESS OF CEYLONESE PHYSICIANS TO SEEK HIS ADVICE IN TREATING SENANAYAKE.

4. BEGING UNCLASSIFIED: KARCHI PASS DR MENARD GERTLER. DR ATTYGALLE SAYS CONDITION OF SENANAYAKE UNCHANGED FROM YOUR LAST VISIT. ALSO, CONSULAR SECTION RECEIVED THIS MORNING LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU FROM DR HILLAR E LEETMA OF NYU MEDICAL CENTER, INST OF REHABILITATION MEDICINOLN 400 EAST 34 TH ST., NYC, AND MARKED URGENT. WILL RETURN SENDER UNLESS YOU ADVISE DIFFERENTLY.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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